

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 DRC-01 /153 W

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R 191505Z AUG 74

FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2816

INFO AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN

CINCLANT

CINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L LOURENCO MARQUES 0705

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY; MILITARY ADDEES FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, MILI, MZ

SUBJ: MONIPAMO SEEKS COMBAT FRELIMO WITH ARMS

1. BASELIO BANDA, SECRETARY-GENERAL OF NATIONAL MOVEMENT FOR "PEACEFUL" INDEPENDENCE OF MOZAMBIQUE (MONIPAMO), PARTY FORMED BY EX-FRELIMO LEADER MIGUEL MURUPA, CALLED ON CONGEN AUGUST 19. BANDA INTRODUCED HIMSELF AS FORMER FRELIMO COMMANDER OF NIASSA DISTRICT. HE SAID HE DEFECTED FROM FRELIMO IN 1971 BECAUSE OF DISAFFECTION WITH FRELIMO TRIUMVIRATE MACHEL-DOS SANTOS-CHISSANO, WHO HAD RUTHLESSLY BUTCHERED MANY FRELIMO MEMBERS.

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2. BANDA ATTRIBUTED DELAY IN FRELIMO ACCEPTANCE OF GOP OFFER TO TRANSFER POLITICAL POWER IN MOZAMBIQUE TO FEAR OF ATTACK FROM DISSIDENT EX-FRELIMO FORCES EITHER ALREADY INSIDE MOZAMBIQUE OR WHO ARE ON WAY BACK FROM MALAWI, TANZANIA, OR KENYA. WHEN FRELIMO LEADERSHIP DOES COME INTO MOZAMBIQUE, BANDA IS CERTAIN THAT IT WILL HAVE TO USE FORCE TO MAINTAIN ITSELF IN POWER AND MUCH BLOOD WILL BE SHED. FRELIMO LEADERSHIP WILL NEVER AGREE TO PEACEFUL POLITICAL COMPETITION.

3. BANDA, WHO HAS JUST RETURNED FROM NAIROBI, CLAIMS SUPPORT OF MANU LEADERSHIP (SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED PADRE GWENJERE), COREMO'S URIA SIMANGO, AND THOUSANDS OF EX-FRELIMO GUERRILLAS (HE CLAIMED THERE ARE 8,000 IN KENYA ALONE), INCLUDING ZE CALIATE, TO WHOM MOZAMBIQUE PRESS REGULARLY ATTRIBUTES ALL KINDS OF ATROCITIES. HE ALSO EXPECTS SUPPORT OF FRIEND LAZARO KAVANDAME, WHO IS MAKING PROGRESS IN BUILDING STRONG PARTY UNIPOMO, ALSO WITH MANY EX-FRELIMO DISSIDENTS. BANDA SAYS MONIPAMO AND ALLIED FORCES HAVE DECIDED TO ACT (WORDS NO LONGER COUNT) TOO PREVENT CURRENT FRELIMO LEADERSHIP FROM ASSUMING POWER IN MOZAMBIQUE. BLOODSHED INEVITABLE.

4. BANDA SPECIFICALLY ASKED FOR US FINANCIAL AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE. ARMS, HE SAID, COULD EASILY BE BROUGHT ACROSS MALAWI OR TANZANIAN BORDERS. HIS FORCES WOULD ATTACK FRELIMO BASES IN MOZAMBIQUE AND, AS EX-FRELIMO FIGHTERS, WOULD BE FAR MORE EFFECTIVE THAN PORTUGUESE. CONGEN OFFICER REPLIED THAT USG POLICY WAS ONE OF NEUTRALITY AND NON-INTERVENTION IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF MOZAMBIQUE.

5. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH SIZE OF FORCE CLAIMED BY BANDA NO DOUBT EXAGGERATED, MONIPAMO AND ALLIES COULD STIR UP CONSIDERABLE TURMOIL IN NORTHERN MOZAMBIQUE. AS FRELIMO DEFECTORS, SUBJECT TO SEVERE PUNISHMENT BY FRELIMO LEADERSHIP, THEY APPEAR TO HAVE LITTLE TO LOSE IN MOUNTING ACTIVE CAMPAIGN AGAINST FRELIMO. GROUP MAY ALSO FIND FINANCIAL BACKING IN SOUTH AFRICA, RHODESIA, OR PORTUGAL.

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